

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 29, 2009, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors, including changing an instance of "closed interior environment" to "closed environment," for consistency with the remainder of the description. Minor typographical errors have also been corrected.

Canceled Claims

Claim 1 and 3-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Nadkarni (U.S. pat. pub. 2004/0202570).

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nadkarni (U.S. pat. pub. 2004/0202570) in view of Cumberland et al. (WO 03/089017).

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cumberland et al. (WO 03/089017).

Claims 1 and 3-4 have been canceled and the rejection thereof is moot.

Newly-Added Claims

The amended claims include several features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Nadkarni or Cumberland, considered singularly or in combination. In particular, the use of a portable ozone generator to sterilize the closed environment rapidly is disclosed or suggested by these references.

The present invention as claimed provides a means to quickly sterilize a number of rooms, for example, by having a maid quickly insert the ozone generator, go through the claimed method, and move on to the next room quickly.

Cumberland employs a far more time-consuming method involving low levels of ozone and requiring hours to go through each room. Nadkarni of course does not disclose a portable device at all and thus is not a solution to this problem.

This invention also provides a device for carrying out the method which is not provided in Cumberland or Nadkarni (which discloses an exterior ozone generator system).

For these reasons at least, it is respectfully submitted that invention as claimed is patentable over Cumberland and Nadkarni and the rejection based on these references should be withdrawn.

Conclusion


In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-3557.

Respectfully submitted,
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